

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 14-16, and 36-49 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 17, 18, and 20-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,545,781 (Chang) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,903 (Barry). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the previously presented claims are patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to Claim 13. In addition, Claims 17-35 have been cancelled from the application, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has presented new Claims 36 and 43 which incorporate limitations of objected to Claims 14 and 15, respectively. Therefore, Applicant further asserts that these new claims recite allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/med